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### Environmental historian to discuss American landscapes

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Jan. 13, 2000

**Contact:** Bernadette Bannister, Center for Continuing Education, (406) 243-6098.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORIAN TO DISCUSS AMERICAN LANDSCAPES**

#### **MISSOULA--**

Classic paintings of the 19th century and what they reveal about Americans' changing attitudes toward nature and the West will be the topic of a slide-lecture at The University of Montana.

Historian William Cronon will present "Telling Tales on Canvas: Landscapes of Frontier Change" on Wednesday, Jan. 19, in Urey Lecture Hall. The lecture will run from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and is free to the public.

In town to address the U.S. Forest Service Northern Region's wilderness managers, Cronon is an expert on U.S. environmental history and the history of the American West. His UM talk will explore the interrelationships between art and nature, public awareness of the West and federal conservation policy. The UM lecture will be illustrated with slides of important American landscape paintings, and a question-and-answer session will follow.

Cronon is the Frederick Jackson Turner Professor of History, Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also is founding faculty director of the Chadbourne Residential College at UW, a former director of the honors program at UW's College of Letters and Science and a former member of Yale University's history department.

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Cronon's research focuses on how humans modify their environments, and how, in turn, people are affected by changing geological, climatological and ecological conditions. He has published several books, including "Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West," which won the Chicago Tribune's 1991 Heartland Prize for best literary non-fiction and the 1992 Bancroft Prize for best American history, and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Most recently, he edited a collection of essays, "Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature."

He is general editor of the Weyerhaeuser Environmental Book Series for the University of Washington Press and has served a three-year term as president of the American Society for Environmental History. He has been a Rhodes Scholar, a Danforth Fellow and a MacArthur Fellow.

"Telling Tales on Canvas" is sponsored by the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West, UM's Department of History, the Mike and Maureen Mansfield Center, the Center for Continuing Education, the School of Forestry and the Art Museum of Missoula.

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